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MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

THESE Concerts were resumed after the Easter recess, with Signor Sivori as principal violin, and Charles Hallé as pianist. Mozart's Quartet in D minor was admirably chosen for the Italian violinist's first appearance. His playing, not only in this, but throughout the evening, was most masterly; and he seems to have gained both in tone and feeling since we last heard him. M. Hallé played in his most finished style the "Suite Française" of Sebastian Bach, which seemed to please the audience as much as the most modern *fantasia*, the applause being not only spontaneous, but universal.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

EXETER Hall was crowded in every part on the 15th ult., when the finest performance of "St. Paul," in our recollection was given, with Madame Parepa, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Henry and Mr. Cummings for the principal vocalists. It would be scarcely necessary to do more than mention this list of singers, did we not feel that in justice to Mr. Cummings, who supplied the place of an artist so popular as Mr. Sims Reeves, we have a right to bear testimony to his thorough efficiency in the part. Mr. Cummings is working out his career in the legitimate way, by care and study; and is already taking his place in public estimation as an earnest and conscientious artist.

NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE third *soirée musicale* of this recently-formed society was given on the 19th ult., at St. James's Hall. Amongst there were some interesting features in the programme, amongst which we must especially notice the singing of Mr. Chandos-Pole Gell, an amateur, in "Non piu Andrai." Mr. T. M. Mudie, who returns to us after a long residence in Edinburgh, played two of his own pianoforte solos, "Serenade," and "Sea Captain's Song," both of which compositions exhibit that accomplished musician-like treatment which characterises all the pianoforte works of this writer; and we must also mention a duet for pianoforte and harp, by Kalkbrenner, which was extremely well performed by Miss Fynes, and Mr. T. H. Wright. The principal professional vocalists were Madlle. Enequist, Mrs. Merest, and Miss Eleonora Wilkinson.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

THIS establishment seems to be fast growing into one of the principal musical institutions of the country. During the past month, in addition to the usual periodical concerts, it has been called upon to represent the feeling of England on two important occasions—one in honour of the great hero Garibaldi, and the other in honour of the great poet Shakspeare—and that it has in each instance fully supported its high musical character, deserves to be placed upon record, not only in proof of the rapid growth of the art in England, but as one of the events eminently characteristic of a spontaneous national tribute to valour and intellect.

On the morning of the presentation of a sword to General Garibaldi, a very excellent concert was given, in which the principal *artistes* of the Italian opera took part. The Shakspeare celebration offered a more favourable opportunity for an occasional musical display; and to give the utmost effect to the choral settings of Shakspeare's poetry, Mr. Leslie's choir lent its valuable aid. The delicate part-singing of this body of vocalists is too well known to need more than a passing word of praise; but we cannot dismiss this interesting concert, without especially commending Mr. Leslie's Madrigalian Chorus, "Soul of the age, Shakspeare rise," which was written for the occasion, and produced a marked effect. We have no doubt that the chorus, which is simple in construction, and offers no great difficulties in execution, will speedily become a favourite with choral societies.

Madame Parepa and Mr. Cummings sang several solos; and amongst the instrumental pieces associated with the name of Shakspeare, Nicolai's Overture to the "Merry Wives of Windsor" was performed by the band of the company, under the able guidance of Mr. Manns.

WE are informed that the Lessee of Her Majesty's Theatre generously intends (in the course of the present season) placing his theatre and the services of all his artists at the disposal of the directors of the Royal Academy of Music, for the purpose of a grand performance in aid of the funds of that most meritorious National Institution; on which occasion, Mr. Mapleson purposes to introduce to the public any of the pupils, vocal or instrumental, that the professors of the Royal Academy of Music may deem sufficiently advanced in their studies. We have reason for believing that Mr. Mapleson's kind interest in the professional welfare of the pupils of this establishment will by no means be limited to this special occasion.

A very curious holograph has been lately found in the Public Record Office, which is probably unique, and which contains a song or melody, by the celebrated Doctor John Bull, the reputed composer of the National Anthem. It may not be generally known that the origin of the words of "God save the King," is to be traced to the watchword and countersign given out in the Lord Admiral's orders, on the 10th of August, 1545, "the watch wourde in the night shalbe thus, 'God save King Henrye;' thother shall answer, 'And long to raign over us.'" The paper in the national repository, just discovered, is signed "John Bull." It is certainly an interesting example of English musical notation, and will no doubt be highly esteemed by lovers of music, as well as by antiquarians.

On Wednesday, the 16th of March, we hear that a very excellent performance of the *Messiah* took place at Madras. It is interesting to find that good music is thus rapidly spreading in every direction; and although on this occasion the pianoforte and harmonium were the only representatives of Handel's instrumentation, the execution of the entire work appears to have afforded the utmost satisfaction to an audience comprising all the principal people of Madras. The tenor voices of Mr. Wright and Mr. Morgan are spoken of in the highest terms; and Mrs. Wright created quite an effect in the recitative "Behold a Virgin," and the air "He was despised." Mrs. Hunter Blair and Mrs. Hay Campbell are also mentioned as possessing excellent voices, the last-named lady eliciting the loudest applause in "I know that my Redeemer liveth," an air certainly testing the highest powers of vocalization. This appears to have been the last concert of the season, as the papers speak of the rapid approach of the hot weather; but we trust that on some future occasion we may have to record other musical entertainments in Madras, equally creditable to those who have thus sought to inculcate a taste for good music in this city.

It would be impossible to chronicle one half of the musical performances which have taken place in connection with the Shakspeare Festival. Not only on the anniversary of his birth, but for a long time before, and some time after this day, concerts have been given in his honour; and even programmes not devoted to the celebration of this event have contained many compositions with which his name is linked. Of course Mendelssohn and Bishop have reigned during the month in undisputed sway; but there are many others, amongst whom we may mention Mr. G. A. Macfarren and Mr. Sullivan, who have in our own time gained a right to be heard, not only because of a "Shakspeare celebration," but by virtue of their own intrinsic merits. At St. James's Hall, the Agricultural Hall, and numerous other concert-rooms in the metropolis, musical Shaksperian performances have been given; and we hear that Mendelssohn's overture to the "Midsummer Night's Dream," was played near Herne's Oak, at Windsor.

At Stratford-upon-Avon, where the principal attractions have of course been concentrated, music has played a very important part; and besides a concert of instrumental music and glees from Shakspeare's plays, the "Messiah" has been given, with a very powerful cast.

A VERY good concert was given on Monday, the 25th ult., by the Western Madrigal Society, at the Hanover-square Rooms. A well-arranged "Shakspeare selection" was performed, in which Miss Fanny Armytage (who appears to be rapidly making her way before the public), Miss Heywood, Mr. Whiffin, and Mr. A. Thomas, took part. A clever cantata, called "The Foresters' Roundelay," the composition of Mr. John Wass, was given for the first time, and most enthusiastically received; a hunting chorus especially pleasing the audience so much as to elicit a spontaneous *encore*. We must also mention the excellent flute playing of Mr. J. Radcliffe, a pupil of the Royal Academy of Music, in Richardson's solo "There's nae luck about the house," the violin playing of Herr Lauterbach, and the very neat execution of Miss Thomson in a pianoforte *fantasia*. The choral singing was exceedingly good throughout the evening.

At the anniversary meeting of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, held on the 22nd ult., at the Hanover-square Rooms, a very excellent selection of music was performed by the blind pupils, proving beyond doubt the success of the method pursued by their indefatigable preceptor, Mr. Edwin Barnes. Besides a number of choruses and part-songs, all of which were sung steadily in time, and with the utmost accuracy of intonation, several pianoforte compositions were performed, amongst which Mr. W. Allen's execution of Beethoven's Funeral March and Rondo, from the Sonata Op. 26, must be particularly commended. Altogether this was a most interesting meeting; and from the addresses delivered by the Bishop of Lichfield, who occupied the chair, and other warm supporters of the institution, we are glad to find that the funds are in a flourishing condition.

SIGNOR ROBERTI'S Mass, which was performed some time since at the Oratory at Brompton, was given on Easter Sunday in the Church of the Jesuit Fathers at Edinburgh. The truly ecclesiastical style of this composition gives us hope that church music may not be allowed to decline without a vigorous effort on the part of those who have its interest at heart. We hope to meet again with Signor Roberti in other works of a similar character; and can assure him that for such compositions there will always be a ready appreciation.

If only in verification of our expressed opinion on the production of Mr. G. A. Macfarren's charming operetta "Jessy Lea," that the public appreciation of this work must eventually be commensurate with its merits, we are pleased again to have an opportunity of calling attention to its successful career. After a long run in London, and a tour in the provinces, with Miss Edith Wynne in the principal character, it is again to be heard at the Gallery of Illustration twice a week, with Miss Robertine Henderson as *Jessy*. In every respect is this part most admirably suited to the voice and style of Miss Henderson, who apart from her vocal abilities, already displayed in the concert-room, has here an opportunity of proving that she has also histrionic powers which may eventually secure for her a permanent position on the lyric stage.

AN Amateur Concert, in aid of the organ fund for the new chapel, took place at King's College, on the 5th ult., when Spohr's "Last Judgment" was exceedingly well performed, the principal parts being sustained by Miss Huntingford, Miss Kate Fergusson, and the former students of the college, Mr. Monk ably officiating as conductor. Several madrigals and part-songs were also given; and amongst the instrumental compositions there was a violin solo by Mr. Mendes, a selection from the "Lieder ohne worte" of Mendelssohn, by Mr. Carter, who presided at the pianoforte, and Gounod's quartett for voice, violin, pianoforte, and harmonium, on Bach's Prelude.

On Wednesday evening, 13th ult., the members of the Marlborough Sacred Harmonic Society performed Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus*, in the large room adjoining Marlborough Chapel, Old Kent-road, conducted by Mr. A. Chipperfield, who has established the choir for the purpose of teaching and practising oratorial music on the tonic sol-fa system. Mr. F. Cozens presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. W. L. Tomlins at the harmonium. The principal vocal performers were Miss M. A. Potter, Miss E. Wilkins, and Miss J. Thompson, Mr. G. Raleigh, Mr. A. Bert, and Mr. Tomlins.

At the great Annual Concert of Students of the *Conservatoire* at Stuttgart, on the 9th ult., a young English lady, Miss Elizabeth Somerville, appears to have created a genuine effect as a *pianiste*. The local papers speak in the highest terms of the delicacy of her touch, and her great manipulative skill. We hear that she was a pupil of Mr. Twiss, of Hartford, before leaving England; and as it appears that she is about to return to this country to pursue her art, we hope shortly to have an opportunity of endorsing the favourable opinion of those who have heard her.

On Thursday evening, the 14th ult., Messrs. Watson and Southwell gave a grand concert at the Music Hall, Store-street. The programme consisted principally of songs, duets, trios, &c., as well as several pianoforte solos. Mr. Watson conducted.

On Wednesday evening, the 6th ult., the Paddington Chapel Choral Society gave its second evening concert. The principal performers were Miss B. Burr, Miss Stalman, the Misses Physick, and the Misses Cundit and Langton. Mr. W. Hollis, the organist of the chapel, conducted.

THE Mornington Glee and Madrigal Society gave its first private concert at Lawson's Rooms, Gower-street, Euston-square, on Monday, the 15th ult. The programme consisted of a selection of glees, madrigals, &c., interspersed with solos by the leading members of the society. The whole was rendered in a manner that reflected the highest credit upon all concerned in the performance. Mr. S. Kilbey conducted, and Mr. W. C. Bird presided at the pianoforte.

On Sunday, the 3rd ult., a new organ, built by Mr. T. Fincham, was opened at Christ Church, Pentonville.

BOW-COMMON.—Mr. W. S. Hoyte (organist of St. Paul's Church), gave a pianoforte recital on the 30th of March, in aid of the Church Decoration Fund. The programme consisted chiefly of selections from Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

ST. BARNABAS CHOIR, KING SQUARE, GOSWELL ROAD.—On Tuesday, March 29th, a concert was given in aid of the choir fund. The chorus numbered nearly 100 voices, assisted by members from the following choirs. "St. Paul's Cathedral, S.S.C., St. Sepulchre's, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and the National Choral Society. The music was well rendered, under the able conductorship of Mr. Batchelor.

Mr. G. J. Hills gave his Mendelssohn entertainment at Chiswick Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 12th ult., and at the Hanover-square Rooms, the 27th ult. Miss Agnes and Master G. F. Hills assisted.

ST. MARY'S JOHNSON STREET, E.—The Annual Easter Festival Concert, on behalf of the School Fund, was held in the School Rooms, as above, on Tuesday evening, March 29th. Principal vocalists, Miss R. Houghton, Mr. J. Lord, Mr. G. Colquhoun, Mr. W. Bush, Mr. F. Cooter, Mr. R. E. Palmer, and Mr. F. A. Bridge, supported by an efficient chorus. Pianoforte, Miss E. Stirling. Violin, Mr. J. Kemp. Conductor, Mr. F. A. Bridge.

TOTTENHAM, N.—The Sixteenth and last Saturday Evening Popular Concert this season, was held at the Lecture Hall, on the 16th ult. During the season the following vocalists have appeared—Mesdames E. Withers, K. Loup, C. Gover, E. Smith, J. Gover, Master W. Lawson, Messrs. J. Lord, A. Morgan, Horace Norman

W. Bush, E. Southwell, G. Colquhoun, F. Cooter, G. F. Wrack, W. Barber, R. E. Palmer, G. P. Satchell, W. J. S. Gadsby, R. Limpus, F. A. Bridge, and the members of the singing class. Pianoforte, Miss E. Stirling, Mr. M. Watson, and Mr. R. Limpus. Violin, Mr. J. Kemp. Conductor, Mr. F. A. Bridge.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. Charles F. Davies, assistant-organist of All Saints, Kensington Park, to St. Peter's, Notting-hill. —Mr. W. H. Essex, to S. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-street. —Mr. Alfred Cox, to S. Philip's, Islington. —Mr. E. Evans Smith, to St. Luke's, Jersey. —Mr. Joseph C. Tiley, to St. Michael Bassishaw, Basinghall-street. —Mr. Robert W. Pringle, to S. Mary's Church, Ilminster, Somerset. —Mr. Robert Proe, to St. Mark's Church, Old Street Road. —Mr. John Clement, to St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, E.C. —Mr. R. Augustus Klitz, to St. Thomas, Lymington, Hants.

OBITUARY.—April 2nd, at Lytham, Mr. John Townsend, of King-street, Manchester, aged 70.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

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Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

The letter from Joseph Poole, on the subject of a new musical notation is too long for insertion. We have read it, however, with much interest; and should recommend the inventor to test its utility by practice. Meanwhile we may say that the method of writing by numbers has been already proposed in the "Sequential Notation," by Arthur Wallbridge, with which system we would advise Mr. Poole to make himself acquainted before proceeding further.

Inquisitor.—A voice is not so much determined by compass, as by quality. We should imagine that you should confine yourself to singing music written for a baritone; but it would be advisable to seek the opinion of a competent professor.

Brief Summary of Country News.

BARDSLEY.—The church choir, assisted by Messrs. Bamford and Parry, gave its annual concert in the school-room on Easter Monday. It consisted of songs, glees, duetts, &c. The performances were warmly received and encores repeatedly called for. Mr. S. Mills, the organist, conducted and presided at the pianoforte.

BIRMINGHAM.—On March the 30th a musical entertainment was given in the Town-hall, for the benefit of the sufferers by the fearful calamity which recently took place at Sheffield. The orchestra consisted of the band of the Star of Hope Union, under the direction of Mr. G. S. Dowling, and a choir of about thirty performers, conducted by Mr. Bellamy. The principal vocalists were Miss Hobson, Miss Davies, and Mr. Milward. Instrumentalists, Messrs. W. Pike, W. Masfield, jun., J. Bonell, and G. Clemmens. —On the 11th ult. a new organ, built by Messrs. Halmshaw and Sons, of Birmingham, for the New Jerusalem Church, was opened by Mr. J. A. Beaumont, organist and choir-master of Edgbaston Congregational Church. The capabilities of the instrument were ably displayed in the following voluntaries:—Aria, "Hear, ye Israel" (*Elijah*); chorus, "Hallelujah" (*Messiah*); aria and chorus, "As pants the hart" (*Spohr's Crucifixion*); chorus, "Thanks be to God" (*Elijah*), &c. The choral portions of the service, which were ably rendered by a well-trained choir

of amateurs, comprised W. H. Birch's "Te Deum" in A, the "Kyrie" and "Gloria" (English version) from Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, and Mendelssohn's Psalm, "Hear my prayer."

BOLTON.—A concert was given in aid of the St. Patrick's Catholic Schools on Thursday, the 21st ult. The vocalists were Miss Tyrrell, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Stewart, Mr. E. Tyrrell, Mr. Farnworth, Mr. Atkinson, and Mr. Ryan. Mr. W. Tyrrell presided at the pianoforte.

BLANDFORD (Dorset).—On Tuesday evening, the 12th ult., Mr. Spinney gave a concert in the Corn Exchange. The soloists were Miss Thorne, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Ingram, and Mr. Kenningham. Miss Spinney was the solo pianist, and Mr. Spinney accompanist.

BOWDON.—On Tuesday evening, the 5th ult., Mr. Hills gave another concert at the British School, Ashley-road, when he was assisted by the celebrated blind singers, the Misses Taylor, and by Messrs. Walton, Allman, and Miller.

BRIGG.—The members of the Brigg Amateur Choral Society gave their first concert in the Exchange Hall on the 31st of March. The first part of the programme consisted of selections from Handel's oratorios *Joshua*, *Judas*, *Samson*, and the *Messiah*, with instrumental accompaniments; the second part of songs, glees, and a selection from *Acis and Galatea*, &c.; the third part of Locke's music to *Macbeth*, concluding with the National Anthem for band and chorus, as arranged by Vincent Novello. Mrs. Thompson presided at the pianoforte, Mr. Thompson conducted, and Mr. C. H. Smith led the band. The concert was very successful.

BRIGHTON.—The members of the St. John's Choral Society gave a secular concert at the Town-hall on Easter Tuesday evening. The band and chorus consisted of about eighty performers, the leader being Mr. H. Bridge. The soloists were Miss Attree, Mr. Dubbins, Mr. Barfoot and Mr. Snelling. Mr. H. J. Bowles was the conductor, and Mr. J. H. Styles the accompanist.

BROSELEY.—The fifth of a series of popular concerts was given in the Town Hall on Monday, the 4th ult. The programme consisted entirely of sacred music, and included Purcell's "Te Deum," Costa's March in *Eli*, Handel's "O thou that tellest," &c. Leader, Mr. Rhoden; conductor, Mr. Burnett. —On the 21st ult. a successful concert was given by the church choir, assisted by Miss Sellman, of the Royal Academy of Music, Miss Eliss, and Mr. Forrest. Solo violin, Mr. Rhoden; piano, Mr. Watkis; conductor, Mr. Bathurst.

CARDIFF.—On Wednesday, the 6th ult., the members of the Cardiff Musical Union gave their second concert for the season. The programme consisted principally of choruses and part-songs. The Union is under the directorship of Messrs. W. B. Kingston, Herr Rönfeldt and J. B. Wilkes, A.R.A., who are all well qualified for their offices. The solo parts, when they occurred in the part-songs, were sustained by Messrs. David, Kingston, Edwards, and Johnston.

CHEPSTOW.—Mr. C. J. H. Wilkes, organist of the parish church, gave a concert here on the 29th of March. Mrs. George Gould, Miss Rhoda Wilson, Miss Jessy Berrows (pupil of Mr. Wilkes), and Mr. J. Herbert sustained the principal parts, and gave the greatest satisfaction.

CHESTER.—On Saturday evening, the 9th ult., the twenty-second of the weekly series of concerts took place in the Music Hall. The vocalists were Mrs. Skeaf, of Liverpool, Miss Bennett, Mr. Rogan, Mr. Whittle, Mr. Love, and Mr. Revill. Conductor, Mr. Skeaf.

COLESHILL.—An amateur concert was given in the Reading-room on the evening of Wednesday, March the 30th, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Bennett, organist of the Coleshill church. The concert was repeated the